



VET notes

EQUINE & LIFESTYLE

JUNE 2012



The last newsletter!

The decision has been made to discontinue the Equine and Lifestyle newsletter. As such this will be our last issue. We have not decided what to do next and would like your input and ideas.

We have 3 options

1. Continue to publish a quarterly equine and lifestyle newsletter distributed via email.
2. Discontinue the equine and lifestyle newsletter and provide an equine article each month in VetNotes.
3. Discontinue all equine articles in Totally Vets newsletters.

We need your feedback, as this is produced for you, our clients. Please send us an email with your preference and any ideas on what you would like to hear about, or how we can improve our newsletters. Send all comments to gayes@totallyvets.co.nz, with "Equine and Lifestyle" in the subject line.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Broodmare health

Katie McKinlay

Prior to breeding, we recommend ensuring your mare's general health and reproductive health is optimal, thereby increasing her chances of getting pregnant and delivering a healthy foal next year.

While unforeseen problems can always occur there are a number of procedures that can be performed on your mare to determine her suitability for breeding. A pre-breeding veterinary exam on your empty or problem mare also allows sufficient time before the season to get your mare into optimal health, whether this is for AI or natural service.

GENERAL HEALTH CARE

- Fecal egg counts and deworming
- Dental care
- Hoof care
- Body condition - condition scoring
- Check selenium levels

NON PREGNANT MARES CHECK LIST

- Pre-breeding examination with ultrasound
 - The examination includes an inspection of the vulva, vagina and cervix and a rectal scan of the uterus and ovaries. It may also include a caslick procedure, uterine culture and cytology, uterine biopsy and treatment of uterine infections.

All pre-breeding exams require a crush

for safety. These exams can be done at the Palmerston North clinic or on your property if a crush is available.

- Vaccinations
 - Strangles, Tetanus, Salmonella and Equine herpes virus (EHV) vaccination as required.

PREGNANT MARES CHECK LIST

- Vaccinations
 - Strangles, salmonella and tetanus booster 4-6 weeks prior to foaling.
 - EHV vaccination is recommended to reduce the risk of abortion. This is given at 4, 5 and 7 months of pregnancy if mares have not been vaccinated before service. Alternatively a yearly booster is given at 4 or 5 months of pregnancy.
- Blood testing for risk of Neonatal Isoerythrolysis (NI) - Foal Jaundice.
 - This affects foals in the first few days of life with clinical signs varying from jaundiced, dull and depressed foals to sudden death. In thoroughbreds 1 in 100 pregnancies are said to be affected by this condition. Although it is not a common disease it has devastating consequences when it occurs. The good news, a simple blood test taken in late pregnancy can help evaluate the risk of your mare producing an NI foal. This allows you to take simple preventative management measures to protect at risk foals at birth. This test should be considered for valuable foals or high risk mares.

Individual mare's programs can be set up. Call Totally Vets today to discuss your needs.

From the horse's mouth

Hi again, this is to be our last "Equine and Lifestyle" newsletter, please see the article on the front page and send us a quick email with your thoughts!

Totally Vets congratulates Lucy on being awarded the Waikato Stud "Young Achiever of the Year" award for 2011. This New

Zealand Equine Research Foundation scholarship is made possible through the generous support of the Chittick family and Waikato Stud.

This scholarship will help Lucy to further her equine career by taking up a six-month internship from August 2012 at the Scone Equine Hospital Intensive Care Unit in Clovelly, NSW. Throughout the year, this ICU sees over 1000 medical caseloads ranging from neonatal and adult medical to post-surgical cases. Lucy will be working under the supervision and

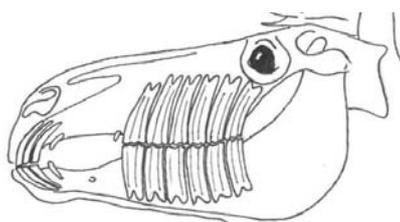
guidance of Dr Jane Axon, a registered specialist in Equine Medicine, who has a particular interest in the neonate. We wish Lucy all the best as she takes up this exciting opportunity and look forward to her returning to Totally Vets in August 2013, after some travelling.

A big congratulations to our vet Anita Renes and husband Arno who are expecting their first baby. Sadly for us at Totally Vets, they are also moving to Christchurch. Anita will be missed very much by staff and clients alike, as a super dairy and equine vet.

Dentistry - Prevention is better than cure

Margaret Leyland

Unlike humans, horse teeth continuously erupt throughout the horse's lifetime so that the teeth are maintained as the chewing surfaces are worn away. This means that any abnormalities of wear are exaggerated with time.



Horses evolved on diets of roughage, which they chew in a circular motion. When horses eat grain, they chew with an up-and-down motion which has different effects on the wear of the teeth. This can result in sharp points developing on the outside of the upper cheek teeth and on the insides of the lower cheek teeth.



If there are any abnormalities in a horse's oral conformation, then the secondary effects on wear can cause overgrowths and sharp points. For example, if a horse has a parrot mouth (the upper incisors are positioned in front of the lower incisors), the cheek teeth are also likely to be misaligned. Overgrowths tend to form on the first cheek teeth on the upper arcades, and the last cheek teeth on the lower arcades. The overgrowths at the back of the mouth are hard to identify and treat without a proper dental examination using a Haussmann gag and a good light source with the horse sedated. If they are neglected for too long, overgrowths can cause ulceration of the soft tissues of the mouth, which can be very painful and cause the horse to lose condition because eating becomes painful.

Similar problems can occur if the cheek teeth have erupted abnormally. For example, miniature horses often have teeth that are too big for their skulls. When they erupt, instead of forming a nice straight arcade, teeth may be pushed out of alignment. This means that they don't wear normally and sharp points and overgrowths are likely to occur.

If problems are identified early, they are easier to treat and preventative dentistry can be scheduled at appropriate intervals before the horse starts to lose condition or performance is affected.

We offer a 10% discount for more than one horse at the same premises, and if you have 5 or more horses further discounts apply. Please call Totally Vets to arrange an equine dental with Margaret (Palmerston North) or Joao (Feilding).

Wound healing - to stitch or not to stitch

Barry Drayton

A recent case illustrated an excellent outcome of successful wound management.

Overall outcomes may range from excellent, as can be seen in these photos of a wound to the head of a foal, to absolute disasters despite all the best of efforts.



Pre-surgery



Pic post-surgery



4 months post-surgery



Congratulations to all of our clients who competed at HOY this year. Special mention to the following clients who had some super success!

Alana Clapperton, winner of multiple showing titles with her ponies, Beechcroft Socialite and Aranui Excelle; Small pony paced and mannered pony of the year, small pony reserve champion pony of the year, large saddle hunter paced and mannered pony of the year, large saddle hunter reserve champion pony of the year, 3rd Intermediate show rider of the year.

The Greig family also had a memorable week, with all 3 girls bringing home wide sashes; Sophie and Coastal Charm 3rd Open Junior Hunter & 10th Junior SH Of The Year, Grace Greig and My Billy Boy 1st Cat B Open High Points, Laura Greig and Rednalgih Natta 8th Open Cat C Open Pony SH Of The Year.

Alan Windle and his string of Nala ponies won too many wide ribbons to name in this column, including In Hand Adult Riding Pony Of The Year with Nala Emblems Zephyr.

Alan Windle with yearling colt Nala Zephyrs Inspiration. Seven times supreme champion this season and winner at HOY.



The best outcome of a wound healing is healing by first intention, such as occurs in surgical wounds. Healing time is short (2-3 weeks) and scar formation is minimal. If healing by first intention does not occur, the open wound repairs by second intention healing. The defect is filled with granulation tissue and repair takes longer (6 weeks to 6 months or longer) and leaves more scarring.

The aim of wound management is to achieve first intention healing if possible. Depending on the type of wound and conditions, this is not always the case.

Factors that determine wound healing can be grouped as follows

- Type of injury - clean, straight wounds are likely to be better cases for first intention healing. Jagged cuts with flaps, exposed bone and tendons are likely to heal slower. Bruising and tissue damage will complicate healing.
- Blood supply - wounds in areas of lower blood supply (e.g. lower limbs), or where blood supply is damaged by injury, heal slower. Blood supply to flaps of skin may be compromised and result in part, or all, of the flap dying.
- Location of injury - wounds to the lower limbs generally heal slower than wounds to the head, trunk and upper limbs.

- Movement - wounds involving joints, tendons, and some muscles, and in directions opposite to the plane of movement, heal slower. Immobilisation of the animal and/or the injured area (bandaging or casting) will assist healing in these cases.
- Contamination of wounds with dirt and material at the time of injury is likely to result in infection and delay healing. Lower limb wounds are more likely to get post-surgery infection.
- Time since injury - the longer after injury, the greater risk of contamination, further damage from unrestricted movement, and swelling of the area.
- Age and health of the patient - healing is slower in older, unhealthy patients, particularly if the injury involves tissue already affected by disease or previous injury.

When these factors are applied to horse wounds, generally

- wounds to the upper limbs, head and trunk heal quicker and are more likely to be suitable for stitching.
- wounds to the limbs below the knee and hock are often not suitable for stitching and heal slower.
- wounds that are clean with minimal tissue damage or loss are more likely to be suitable for stitching.

- skin flap wounds may not be suitable for stitching and better removed.
- if stitching is not possible, healing will have to be by second intention, with or without bandaging and appropriate dressings.

If you decide a wound needs veterinary attention

- Call Totally Vets ASAP- a delay of 6-12 hours will probably mean the wound is not able to be stitched.
- Don't apply any medication or dressing to fresh wounds.
- Prevent further contamination by applying a temporary covering and moving to a clean area if possible.
- Control bleeding by pressure with a clean towel, cloth or bandage.
- Prevent further damage by restricting movement.

Remember

- Not all wounds are suitable for stitching.
- Very satisfactory results can be achieved with procedures appropriate for that wound.
- Some stitched wounds will break-down and require further surgery and treatment.
- Complications can occur that delay wound healing and adversely affect the final outcome.

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National Animal Identification and Tracing scheme - your obligations as a lifestyle farmer

Anita Renes

NAIT (National Animal Identification and Tracing) is an animal identification and tracing scheme that will link people, property and animals.

NAIT Ltd is the industry-owned company implementing the scheme. Under the NAIT scheme, cattle and deer will be tagged with an electronic NAIT-approved RFID ear tag.

The NAIT database will store information about each animal's individual RFID number, its location, and the contact details of the person in charge of the animal. The database will meet animal tracing requirements for New Zealand in a way that is consistent with the guidelines of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

This information is currently held in a range of databases.

NAIT will:

- link people, property and livestock.
- provide lifetime animal traceability.
- enhance New Zealand's biosecurity response.
- safeguard our New Zealand brand and farmers' income.

NAIT will be mandatory for cattle from 1 July 2012, and for deer from 1 March 2013.

If you are in charge of cattle or deer, you will need to:

- Tag your cattle and deer with NAIT-approved radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tags.
- Register with NAIT and get a NAIT number.
- Register your cattle and deer with NAIT.
- Record all movements of cattle or deer, off or onto your farm or property, from July 2012.
- Record all deaths, losses or exports of live cattle or deer with NAIT - from July 2012.

You can register yourself online now.

Registering is straightforward and takes less than 10 minutes. Go to www.nait.co.nz

For help getting registered phone NAIT on **0800 624 843**.

To find out more about registering yourself, tagging and registering animals, when to record animal movements and other aspects of NAIT, see the NAIT user guides and fact sheets on the website.

The above article has been reproduced from the NAIT website www.nait.co.nz

WINTER DENTISTRY DEAL



Book an equine dental with Totally Vets and get a free Faecal Egg Count and 50% off a wormer*

*1 x any 30g tube of horse wormer

Offer applies to dentals from 22nd May to 30th June 2012

More than one horse at the same location gets 10% discount off the cost of the dental

5 or more horses at one location qualify for further discounts